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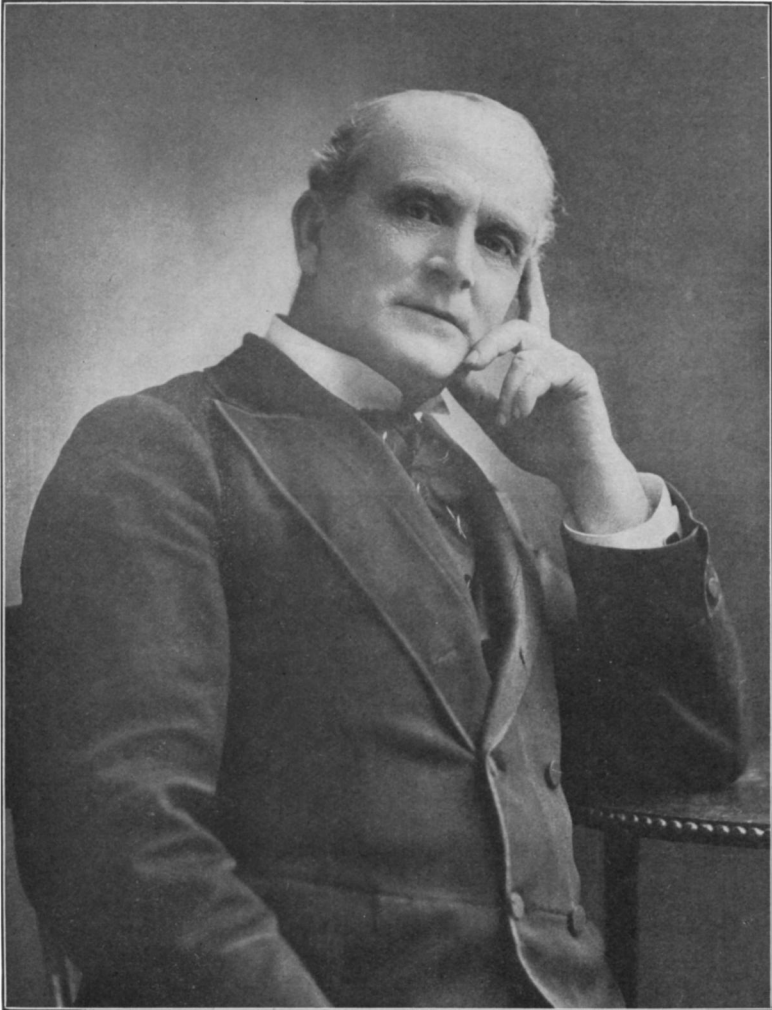
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McKENDREE HYPES CHAMBERLIN

M. H. Chamberlin, A. M. LL. D.

BY HIS SON, CLIFFORD D. CHAMBERLIN.

McKendree Hypes Chamberlin was born in Lebanon Illinois, November 17, 1838, in the original building of the McKendree College, over which his father, Rev. David Chamberlin, was then steward, and his mother, Susan R., was matron.

He died July 27, 1914, at the age of 75 years, in comparative obscurity, in Los Angeles, California, where he was living with his wife, Helen D., his son, Clifford D., and grandson, Vincent.

At the funeral services, held in Los Angeles, on July 30, Prof. Alfred Ewington, of the Los Angeles High School, who graduated from McKendree College, when Dr. Chamberlin was president, said, in speaking for the students who knew him during the fourteen years of his service at the head of that college: "President Chamberlin had much in common with his students. A sweet, cheering influence was cast in every direction from his life—an inspiring friendship given not alone to the cultured youth, but to the uncouth, the slow, the uncultured, the man of but one talent. Such was the contagiousness of his good qualities that when you went out of his presence you too, were 'contagious'—far-sighted, courageous, unwearied; you had some of his rare power to take the discordant elements of life and adjust them to the joy of men and the glory of God."

Dr. J. F. Snyder, of Virginia, Illinois, an old McKendree College student, and one of the founders of the State Historical Society of Illinois, with which Dr. Chamberlin and

himself were together identified for several years, in a private letter of condolence upon the death of his friend, said: "My home was in Belleville, Illinois, twelve miles southwest of Lebanon, when my two brothers entered McKendree College in 1841. They there roomed in the college boarding house, conducted by Rev. David Chamberlin and wife, and there I frequently visited them until their graduation. I early made the acquaintance of 'Mack,' as the future president of McKendree College was familiarly known, a robust, alert, and active youngster three years of age. In 1845, when I was myself enrolled as a student in the college, he was a precocious lad, bright and intelligent, with sunny, happy disposition, six and a half years old, the pet of all the students, the faculty, and the villagers. Through all the years since that time, notwithstanding our different environments and the broad variance in our convictions concerning many matters of public policy and individual judgment, our mutual confidence and affectionate friendship never wavered. I esteemed him highly, and his death now, as the shadows of life's evening are lowering about me, fills me with inexpressible sadness."

Before the lad "McKendree" had left the public school of Lebanon he had become quite a "politician," keeping posted on the topics of the day, and when he entered McKendree College, in the same town, he was well fitted as a brilliant leader among the students.

While in college he became greatly impressed with the fact that his mother and father, long before his birth, as well as afterward, had given their lives, their time, means, energy, to McKendree College and its students, that it might be tided over periods of financial stress. He knew that they had "kept themselves impoverished" that the college might thrive. Now entering manhood he could appreciate what they had done and contemplated with admiration the self-sacrificing devotion of other families—the Hypes, Deneens, Horners, Rankins, Rigins, Peebles, and many others.

Mr. Chamberlin's conversation and correspondence from his college days to his death, showed that at that time he was

possessed with an ambition unaccountable for a boy of his age; it was to make McKendree College the greatest educational center in this country. His private records tell of his determination to make the money to endow the college himself. Another resolution that he seems to have made during his college days was to devote his life to the blessing and helping of every one with whom he should be brought into contact. This second resolve proved a sort of hindrance to the first, for in always "giving" of both time, sympathy and means, he could never hoard the desired fortune to bestow on the college.

While in college as a student he must have studied into its history with diligence, because he was so familiar with it when he without means was forced into the presidency many years later, when he laughed and said: "Well, maybe Providence has thus decreed I shall endow McKendree as a pauper rather than as a Croesus." To show how he must have kept in touch with old-timers, we quote from a letter which will also throw light on the circumstances which formed the basis of young Chamberlin's youthful dreams of some day memorializing McKendree. This letter was from one of the pioneers, Thomas Casad, then living at Westport, Missouri, and thus read, in part:

"The chrysalis of what is now McKendree College was first started by a subscription of the citizens of Lebanon and vicinity to be paid in work mostly, in preparing material for the building (1828).

"My father drew up and circulated the instrument, and hewed out with his own hands a considerable portion of the timbers for the building, and I well recollect that he kept me busy for most of a year hauling the materials together. The timbers were large, ten and twelve inches square; these of course were unnecessarily so, but it was the custom of the times. The floors of the building were of oak, and were hauled from what was called Pickering's Mill on Canteen Creek—as I well recollect. This creek must come into the Mississippi bottom somewhere between Caseyville and Collinsville. It has been near forty years since this timber was sawed and

hauled; the mill was owned at that time by one Isaac McMahan, a crazy kind of a Methodist, who afterwards, I believe joined the Mormons. He was a contributor to the seminary.

"There are but few in Lebanon now who were there at the time the seminary was started; Nathan Horner, Joseph Hypes, T. W. Gray, T. and A. Williams, John and Charles McDonald, are all that are left who were grown men at that time, and were living in and about the place. I believe all these men contributed to the seminary. The McDonalds, I know, assisted in getting out timbers. There lived in Lebanon and vicinity at that time Colonel Clemson, Dr. Witter, Adam Vineyard and three sons, grown men; Deacon Crocker with a large family of sons, mostly grown men; Wm. Farris, Wiley Graves, a man of the name of Mowry, Andrew Christy, now of St. Louis; Thomas Ray, James Riggin, and a few others, who have all, or nearly all, paid the debt of nature. Your father came to Lebanon about this time, and no man suffered more and sacrificed more for the college and the cause of education than he. In the vicinity of Lebanon lived Nicholas Horner, with two sons and a daughter; the Murray family, a large family, mostly grown up men and women; the Bradsbys, John Dew, S. H. Thompson, T. Peeples, the Moores, and many others, who felt and took an interest in the seminary.

"While the institution went under its first name, E. R. Ames (now bishop) came to Lebanon from the State of Ohio to take charge of the infant seminary, and I believe taught one or two years; he was a professor of religion, and a faithful teacher, as I can testify from personal knowledge.

"I think John Dew then had charge of the seminary for a year or two. I do not recollect when the institution took the name of McKendree; it was, perhaps, in 1833 or 1834.

"I have always felt an interest in the institution, perhaps from the fact that I had some hand in and assisted at its commencement as a seminary near forty years ago. I saw the first stick of timber put in. It was on the site before the primitive forest was taken off the ground. I am conscious that it has done good, but am not prepared to say that more good

might not have been done, in a utilitarian point of view, with the means there expended."

This "fire shut up in his bones," as he often expressed it, to make the oldest college in Methodism a broad and liberal educational center, was an inspiration to him all his life. As some one has lately said, "A proper history of McKendree Chamberlin would be a history of McKendree College."

While a student in college, he has been heard to tell of how his young mind was aroused over the subject of "woman's rights." It was then unpopular to advocate equal suffrage for both sexes, but he was an ardent believer in the doctrine, and prophesied that he would live to see the day when women would preach in the pulpits and cast ballots for presidents of the United States. Both came true, for, before his death, women were admitted as lay delegates to Conferences, and allowed to preach from Methodist altars as evangelists, and during his residence in California, he and Mrs. Chamberlin went to the polls together three times. "Quite a change," said he, "from the time that my mother, for protection from the mob, had to have a card to admit her to class meetings in Lebanon, because it was known that the Methodists were beginning to allow their women to speak in meeting."

Young Chamberlin was often urged to prepare for the ministry. His theologically inclined friends noting his zeal and familiarity with the Scriptures, annoyed him considerably, reminding him of the "woe" pronounced upon those who refuse to preach when called. But he steadfastly held out against such a position in the church, because he believed that "Every man and every woman who becomes a Christian should preach." They forced an exhorter's license upon him, but he went no further than to take active part in both church and Sunday School work at home, at law school, in Boston during his railroad and political, and subsequent life, when he endeavored to let his light shine not only on Sundays but every day in the week. The delightful, impressive, but inoffensive manner in which he witnessed to his faith among his business associates, called forth their admiration and in some cases, a

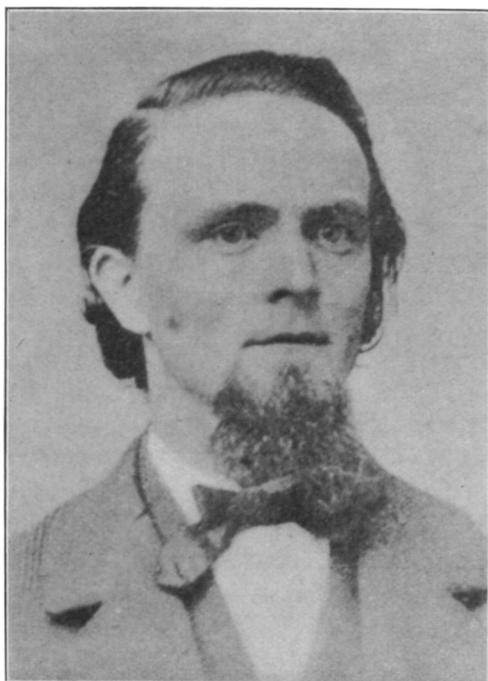
relation of affectionate friendship. These mutual companionships, based upon a genuine love which true and undefiled religion begets, continued up to the time of his death, when the minister, Mr. Harrington, who spoke at his funeral, testified to the life of Dr. Chamberlin, he said: "There has been but one other death, in all my experience, which has touched my heart strings as this one. The association of himself and wife has been a honeymoon of forty-five years."

While a student in college Mr. Chamberlin joined the Philosophian Literary Society. His brother John, two years older, belonged to the other—the Platonian. Both boys were leaders. John (still living in 1914) was a bright student, loving and self-sacrificing, but less active in school because much of his energy was given toward help in making a living for the widowed mother and family. He was a prosperous merchant in Lebanon, many years, and treasurer of McKendree College. He wished to be a physician, but as there was not means enough to give both boys a technical training, he gladly helped McKendree to go to Harvard Law School, after the latter had graduated at McKendree with highest honors—valedictorian of the class of 1859.

His law course began in 1860 and was finished the next year. He did a vast amount of reading. He heard stirring speeches, in Boston, against slavery, for the war had begun. He kept up correspondence with old students and professors in the west, which helped him to develop that delightful, wide-awake style which marked everything he wrote.

After receiving the degree of LL. B., in 1861 from Harvard, he returned to Illinois and for five years engaged in various activities which contributed to that all-around education which made his life so practical, and increased his executive capacities. Part of the time he was in commercial lines, and for a while he was at home helping to build a house for his mother and beautify their Lebanon property.

In 1865 he opened a law office in Kansas City, and for about four years rose in his profession, making a name for himself, refusing all cases, however, in which he saw graft and dis-



McKENDREE HYPES CHAMBERLIN
Picture taken at the time of his graduation
from McKendree College

honest motives. He met Miss Helen Dana there, and on June 8, 1869, they were married. A month later they moved to Beardstown, Illinois, where he had previously been engaged in newspaper work in association with an old college chum, Mr. J. S. Nicholson, editor of the "*Beardstown Illinoisan*."

Chamberlin was in demand in public functions. His grasp of Greek and Latin roots, dry and tasteless as they are to most students, made it possible for him to use a flow of language which comes only from study, and gave him appropriate words for extemporaneous speech. This caused many to marvel at his readiness to talk without previous preparation.

He took part in local and national political campaigns, stumping for others, but never thought of office for himself, until his friends forced him to the front later.

His only son, Clifford, was born in 1870, and five years later a daughter, who died in infancy.

All the years he was away from Lebanon he was not forgetful of his Alma Mater—McKendree College. He kept posted as to her financial sorrows which seemed to be perennial. One year when the college debt had reached \$30,000, he determined to find some way to abolish it and place the college in the lime-light, improve its curricula, and draw a large attendance. He devised an "educational convention" for its fortieth anniversary in 1868. Fortunately, Dr. Allen, president at that time, reduced the debt to \$15,000, and Chamberlin laid his project before him, promising to do the labor of working up an interest. A meeting of resident students was held in Lebanon on December 12, 1867, and a committee of eight appointed to plan the celebration for February 20, following. The committee were Judge W. H. Snyder, A.M., John M. Chamberlin, A.M., R. F. Cunningham, A.M., M.D., W. H. Hypes, A.M., Hon. Thos. A. Parker, A.M., M.D., H. H. Horner, A.M., Hon. Alonzo Thompson, A.M., and M. H. Chamberlin, A.M., LL.B. Chamberlin drafted a circular in which he put forth every bright side of the college. It had 150 students, the buildings were valued at \$65,000 and the endowment was \$25,000. He called upon all lovers of higher education to meet

and discuss university education, the co-education of the sexes, the importance of the classics and the extent to which mathematics should be pursued. Enthusiastic replies came from all over the country, old professors, students, governors and prominent citizens of other places who could not attend. Among those who did come to the convention itself much enthusiasm was engendered. While the debt was not paid off, an advance step was taken for the institution, and most important of all, Mr. Chamberlin was adding to the inspiration which he found useful years later.

After the Civil War the entire country took on new life. Mr. Chamberlin began the study of railroads. The Union Pacific was opening up the West, and the field of money-raising for the construction of roads was inviting. The Rockford, Rock Island & St. Louis Company were looking for some one to overcome the prejudice which prevailed among small towns, and farmers along their proposed extension, especially between Monmouth and Galesburg, Illinois. Nicholson, the senior member of the Beardstown paper, recommended Mr. Chamberlin, and the company, somewhat dubious, thought to try him.

He hatched a plan absolutely new in the field of railroading—one which afterward was used all over the United States to some extent. In brief it was this: First, solicit help, or local aid, from the people along the proposed line, issuing to them "transportation" instead of "stock." Second, let the subscribers pay for their subscriptions when the cars are running. Third, as each person pays, issue "certificates" entitling him to both passenger and freight transportation privilege equal to his subscription. Fourth, let these certificates be negotiable—a first lien on the road. Fifth, the holder of certificates to pay one-half his bill in cash, thus creating an operating fund till the certificates are exhausted. This helps to build the road, and he gets his money back.

Chamberlin argued thus: "It will be an improvement on the old stock basis which is the established custom for agents to use while soliciting money for a projected road. They dazzle

the farmer's mind with the idea of becoming part owner in a great corporation and "getting rich" quick. "I will show them," said Chamberlin, "that they will get their investment back in the form of freight or passenger service, a better inducement than stock."

The *Globe-Democrat* of St. Louis, commenting on the scheme, said: "It is certainly an improvement over the old stock basis. Intelligent subscribers to railroad stock, outside the 'ring,' turn their money in as a donation and receive stock as a matter of form. The 'ring' always manages a foreclosure by which the stock is wiped out and the stock certificates are used to embellish the walls of country houses in places where an engraving looks better than a hole in the wall.

"The holder of certificates is to pay, each time he uses his certificate, one-half his bill in cash; the fifty per cent to form a fund to operate the road until the transportation certificates are exhausted. This is feasible. It encourages the people to aid in building railroads and will encourage capital to take this method of developing localities where railroad communication is needed."

On this basis the enthusiastic Chamberlin proceeded with horse and buggy and a transit man or two across several counties, calling mass meetings of farmers, laying before them his certificate plan. There was but one result. They all wanted to invest. They wanted the road.

In Bushnell a monster demonstration was held. Young Chamberlin roused the people to white heat. The president of the road had sent him orders not to try to solicit money there—simply deliver his speech. He said they must have \$25,000 from that town, and a special agent would be sent to follow him up. Innocent of his orders which reached him *after* the occasion, he raised \$50,000 himself.

After his remarkable success with this road, his services were in demand in other parts of the United States. He received passes from most of the railroads of the country. He seldom used them, but remained in his native State—Illinois.

In 1871 he was called to finance the Muscatine Western Rail-

way. Later the projectors of the Keokuk, Galesburg & Chicago Railway made him their general manager. The projected line included, beside the towns given in the title, Berwick, Quincy, Pittsfield and Louisiana, Missouri.

The beginning of Mr. Chamberlin's political career was during the Grant-Greeley campaign in 1872, when he was placed on the Republican electoral ticket. He was chosen to open the campaign in Springfield at the Wigwam, an immense auditorium. Hon. Milton Hay, chairman of the Grant and Wilson Club, introduced him. "At first," said the *Virginia Gazette* of August 16, "the speaker started out as though he mistrusted his own ability and showed signs of diffidence which is a natural weakness of his, but warming with his subject he held that immense gathering spell-bound with his eloquence, and at every pause he was greeted with deafening bursts of applause. His arguments in defense of the government and its measures, was a perfect and complete vindication of the administration, and his arraignment of liberals, such as Sumner, Schurz, Trumbull, Palmer, and others, was a just rebuke to those men whom he clearly convicted of conspiring with such men as Frank Blair to turn over both the Republican and Democratic parties to a combination formed on the basis of mutual greed for office. Several times the speaker attempted to close his speech but was as often greeted with cries of "go on, go on," from all parts of the house, and after two hours of as earnest and eloquent an effort as we have ever listened to, he finally closed with a peroration that was received with the wildest demonstrations imaginable. The stage was immediately crowded with distinguished men warmly congratulating the speaker on his effort, which was universally conceded to be the ablest speech made at the State capital during the campaign."

Here he made a name as an orator in national politics, and the Republicans of the Twelfth District, at a loss to know where to turn for a candidate for Congress to oppose Jim Robinson, decided that Chamberlin was the man who could beat him, and they, with much difficulty, prevailed upon him

to run,—rather they printed his name on the ticket and planned his program against his definite protest.

The district had never been under 5,000 democratic majority. Chamberlin insisted that a stronger man than he should undertake the fight. He was running a Sunday School convention in Cass County the day the committee met, and they sent an engine and special car from Springfield to get him. They had a brass band aboard. The band played and they waited for his decision. He turned to his wife and asked her advice. She replied: "You have done everything you could to prevent this; now, having been nominated, there may be something providential in it."

He took her suggestion and went into the campaign, making two speeches a day. Robinson, strong in his security, was speaking out of the State. His friends wrote him to come home and take care of his fences. But Chamberlin was too far ahead when he arrived, and he called a consultation of his friends. "Bill" Springer and Rheuna Lawrence afterwards informed Chamberlin that when the Democrats were sure Jim Robinson would be beaten by not less than 500 votes, they decided that it would take \$10,000 to save him. "Every Irishman in the district was shouting for 'Mike' Chamberlin." Mr. Chamberlin's first name being McKendree, he was nick-named "Mack," which the Irish changed to "Mike." When John M. Palmer appealed to the Democratic National Committee for the \$10,000, the reply came back: "If Robinson can't beat a new man, with 5,000 majority and his record, he deserves to be beaten."

Some one then went to New York and made a personal appeal to the committee. The money was secured. When the votes were counted Chamberlin was just 829 votes short, and was defeated.

Shortly after this political campaign, Mr. Chamberlin was urged by a staunch admirer to go to a southern railway and prove to the owners that he could finance their road, which was then going behind. He went to investigate. He met with the board of trustees in the office of a bank. While waiting in

the vestibule he overheard the old general manager, who evidently feared they might let him out of his job, making a plea to let him try out the Chamberlin plan himself. There was considerable heated discussion. Enough of the talk escaped to Chamberlin's ears to decide him to "wash his hands of the affair before it should begin." He was then called in. There were no introductions. The little general manager sat rubbing his hands nervously. The president, a fleshy distiller, whose stomach "rested on the mahogany table" (as Chamberlin expressed it whenever he told this amusing story) said, in rather insolent manner: "So you propose to build an extension to our road and you have'nt got a cent of your own money!" The stranger arose, and for probably thirty seconds looked at every member, square in the eye, began a withering rebuke against the way he had been treated, and then told them something of his success in the north, and that he knew he could build their road on the "certificate" plan. The men were clearly ashamed. Their attitude was changed. They asked him to meet them again and go into details. It was late in the afternoon. The little general manager was very polite and invited Chamberlin to his house for dinner. While there he pumped and questioned him till he had gotten the chief features of the Chamberlin plan from the author himself, whereupon the general official informed his guest that his company was going to let him try the new idea if he could prove to them that he could. This he felt he could now do since getting the help from Mr. Chamberlin himself. The latter arose, taking his hat in hand, and thanking the gentleman for his supper, told him he knew he had been invited there to be robbed of his plans, and gave away his secrets knowingly, but that he knew they could not build the road. The company tried to carry out the scheme, but failed.

In somewhat similar manner, during his business career, Mr. Chamberlin has been robbed of other plans and ideas, and the fruit of his thought and labors—either through ambition, intrigue or selfishness. This is ever the experience of those who work for others and not for self.

If Mr. Chamberlin had a weakness it was that of not claiming what was properly his. If he saw others were being injured he was "up in arms" to defend them. When practising law he would not charge unfortunate persons for his services even when he won the suits for them.

Occasionally prominent persons would come to him for help in writing up speeches. He never charged for this, even if it required some time for research and writing. He did many valuable professional services for others, and made the mistake of not charging. A very few, however, made him take pay, others thanked him, and others did not think to do either.

In 1877, Mr. Chamberlin's reputation for ability in railway matters induced Governor Oglesby to call him to the secretaryship of the Illinois State Railway and Warehouse Commission, with offices at the State Capitol. He served there three years, accomplishing a vast amount of work and introduced methods of value to his successors.

In 1880 the "mining fever" overcame him. He resigned his position with the Railway and Warehouse Commission. "We will never get rich here," he said to his wife, "and if I am to endow McKendree College, I must find a mine." Using one of his passes, he went to Denver. The wife and child soon followed. He studied mining and mineralogy, and before long became an expert, secured options on mines, wrote up his own prospectuses, and made a number of deals in New York and other cities.

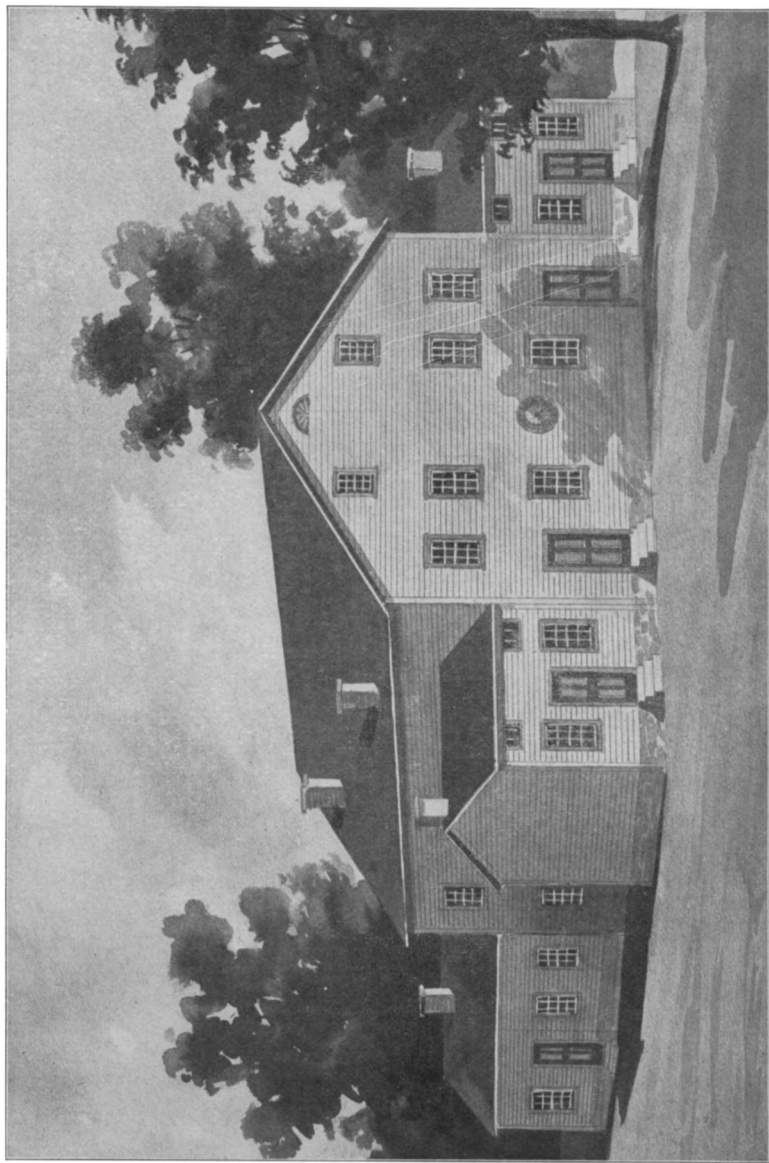
At first he operated in Colorado chiefly, but later he went from Idaho to New Mexico, in search of larger properties. Sometimes he was "grub-staked," and on other occasions he went prospecting on his own account. Once, his associates in a mining camp, rebuked by his temperance principles, determined to force him to drink whiskey and get him drunk. With that delightful tact and presence of mind he always showed under all tests, he talked them out of their scheme and made them ashamed. As life progressed, he added to his fund of entertaining and instructive anecdotes. His stories were largely taken from his own life's experiences. He made his

listeners laugh or cry at will. And his stories always stood out in contrast to the ordinary tales and accounts told in groups of men, because his were not embellished with obscene or vulgar features. He could mimic the voices and looks of prominent people and many of his friends, which greatly amused. He would have made a good comedian. As he grew older he was mistaken sometimes for Joe Jefferson, at a distance, and when still later he was fleshy, he resembled William Jennings Bryan slightly.

In 1883 he struck out for the Black Range country in New Mexico, and there found a copper-silver prospect known as the "Midnight." He determined, after careful examination, that this would give him the desired fortune to endow the college. The owner, Mr. Drake, was induced to sell it to him and a man named Turner (who afterwards became wealthy). His family came from Denver to Chloride, New Mexico. Two years were spent in development of the property on a small scale. Then going to St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Chamberlin, in order to put the mine on a paying basis, organized a company having Judge Leo Rassieur of that city, for president. Examination was made, and the claims of Chamberlin as to the values in the mine, more than verified. Work had not progressed very far, however, when the silver market began to slump. The demonetization of silver in 1873 was beginning to be felt by silver mining companies, and the Midnight mine closed. Silver dropped from over \$1.00 to 60 cents. Had it remained at \$1.00, Mr. Chamberlin would have become rich from his share in the mine.

In 1885 the Apache Indians went on the "war path" in the Black Range, and the Chamberlin family returned to Denver, and two years later to St. Louis, which proved to be a more favorable location for the reaching of capital, as well as for the securing of coal and timber lands in the south, which Mr. Chamberlin had added to his promotion business.

The son Clifford was now of college age, and entered McKendree, but after a year quit to assist his father in business, though later he went back and stayed till graduation.



McKENDREE COLLEGE. Original Building Destroyed by Fire, January, 1856

From 1887 to 1894 Mr. Chamberlin continued to handle lands and mines, making a small deal now and then, till he had established a good name among some London firms. His London agent succeeded, at last, in placing the sale of a large tract of railroad lands. The first payment, in fact, was made—about a million dollars—and Chamberlin received a telegram from the bank in New York that the money had been cabled to him from London, and was in the New York bank at his disposal. It was night, and he put off the reply till the next morning, for some reason, and during the night the failure of the Baring Brothers was announced. Both North and South America suffered in a panic, and Chamberlin's money was quickly withdrawn by the purchasers and the deal lost. The reverse was bravely borne. Mr. Chamberlin went ahead with his work, and a few years later saw another big deal ruined by a similar calamity.

Undaunted, his pluck and energy still strong and buoyant, and two or three more small deals on the way to successful issue, when a committee of gentlemen from Lebanon called at his office in St. Louis to propose his taking the presidency of McKendree College. The persons on the committee were Alex. Morriss, Dr. E. L. Waggoner, T. A. Wilson and John M. Chamberlin.

With McKendree College seriously in debt, buildings dilapidated, property going into decay, interest in real college work at low ebb, and what little revenues had been taken in the year before had, to a considerable percentage, come from commercial and common school studies, there was a feeling of utter discouragement on the part of the executive committee. They had nothing inviting to offer Mr. Chamberlin and, to make the situation more gloomy, the one who had been last elected, Rev. Dr. Thomas Parker, had been to Lebanon, looked over the situation and resigned. With the summer of 1894 nearly half gone, no catalogue out, no solicitation made for students, Mr. Chamberlin pointed out to the gentlemen that since it was customary to place some one of the clergy in the president's office there might be a prejudice were a

layman chosen. He therefore refused to take the step. A few days later he was called to Lebanon for another conference, but again declined, even though it was pointed out that a business man was needed—one with energy and ability, together with scholarship and dignity; that he was fitted with these qualities. Yet, he felt that he was about to make some good financial turns which, being foreordained to McKendree, would be of more practical help than his moneyless service. A few days later, for a third time and in desperation, the committee appealed to him, saying that unless he would take the almost forlorn hope, the mortgage would be foreclosed and the grounds sold within nine days to pay for overdue interest on mortgages, and McKendree's career would come to a close, as had been true with Augusta College in Kentucky, also a Methodist institution, two years older than McKendree, which burned down never to be rebuilt. "Elect me!" exclaimed Mr. Chamberlin. "I can almost hear the bones of my mother leaping in her coffin, as you hint at such a fate for McKendree College."

He lost no time in taking up the problem. He abandoned his mining and land business, moved to Lebanon immediately, and with the aid of his wife in various ways, and his son as typewriter and advertiser, put his whole soul into the task of the resurrection of McKendree. In his funeral oration, Prof. Ewington added: "The years devoted to the rehabilitation of McKendree were long and weary, fraught with self-denials and a succession of shattered hopes and answered prayers. Many a night when the lights of the little town of Lebanon had been extinguished and the people lay sleeping, there were still two lights shining, one in the home where the wife and mother kept her vigil, the other across the campus, in the college office, where the president and his faithful son were working, preparing the correspondence to win back the alienated friends of McKendree, and gain new ones.

Those who were in close touch with President Chamberlin remember that he had soon formulated a program to cover years of labor, and that he followed it out with remarkable

closeness up to the time of his removal from the office. This was his ambition:

First—To effect a large increase in attendance of students, his first year.

Second—To then make small repairs, and paint the buildings.

Third—To raise the debt, if possible, in Lebanon. By this he thought to agreeably surprise the Methodist Conference of Southern Illinois, who had been taking up collections for the college for many years.

Fourth.—To make larger repairs, such as removing huge dead trees, installing a steam heat plant, re-roofing, etc.

Fifth—Then to strike out for one hundred thousand dollars endowment.

Sixth—Next, raise a fund for the erection of buildings to house and board students on the grounds to cost say, \$100,000.

Seventh—Then, carry out a campaign for \$500,000, going to the strongholds of fortunes in eastern States, laying before the Rockefellers, Goulds, Sages and others, the claims of McKendree as the most sturdy, romantic, and logical center for a great and unique university.

Eighth—Following such a victory, he built his hopes on the endowment (if not before) of chairs to the various old families who had helped save the college and in other ways serve its interest in pioneer days, at the same time continuing the winning of millions more which would naturally become available.

For him there was no working fund available. He had to create one and he did so. The first year about one-half of his income (which was \$619) was thus used.

The faculty partook of the spirit of optimism which possessed his every speech, letter, and action. The attendance that first September was the largest for many years, despite the fact that the commercial and elementary studies were subordinated or left off the program.

The small repairs, painting and paper-hanging, were begun as students arrived, and there was the appearance of thrifty

commotion which was stimulating. Mrs. Chamberlin, in a buggy, went about town collecting the small sums which had been subscribed by the townspeople, who seemed glad to help in the plans for the college.

During that year, the president again struck the Lebanon people—a little harder this time—for money to pay off the debt. This was a heroic move, a surprise. Why could not the Methodist Conference take care of its own college, as they had been doing? President Chamberlin explained that they must make it grander, broader, and more hospitable, and not allow it to remain with the repute of a narrow, sectarian school. “You Lebanon people pay off the debt, and I’ll endow the college from outside!” He did have to get some help from other towns, but the Lebanon people responded nobly to President Chamberlin’s efforts to solve the debt problem, and within a year, for the first time probably in its history, the college was entirely free from all encumbrances. There was much rejoicing and serenading of persons who had helped do “the impossible.”

The president then said: “We are not yet ready to raise an endowment. We must dress up a little more, even if it takes another year!” He proceeded to raise several thousand dollars from old college sympathizers to modernize the ancient buildings as far as possible, beautify the grounds and install a steam heating plant. While the year was spent in making visible changes to the property, the chief was at work also strengthening the courses of study, “weeding out” as he called it, those studies which did not contribute to the dignity of a high grade institution. The catalogue was revised and brought near to the standard of other universities of the country.

Then was the president ready to “plow the high seas” in search of his first \$100,000 for endowment. He was thus far sticking close to his program. He had some critics. Some thought he did unwisely to ask for aid from local persons, others thought it unwise to cut out revenue-producing commercial studies. Dr. Jesse Bowman Young, then editor of

the *Central Christian Advocate*, hearing the comment made that President Chamberlin was "visionary," wrote an editorial in which he said that because President Chamberlin had outlined such an "impracticable" task, he was visionary. "It pays to be visionary, to believe and hope and work in anticipation of things which are to be brought to pass. The men who dream dreams and who see visions are the builders of new eras, the founders of new institutions, the pioneers of a new civilization. It is like ozone to be with this young man of seventy, and hear his story of what has been and will be."

President Chamberlin had learned of Dr. D. K. Pearsons and his gifts to small colleges. He determined to see him and lay the claims of McKendree before him. We find among Dr. Chamberlin's letters and papers a penciled account of his interview with Dr. Pearsons. Enough is herewith given to show his inimitable and unobtrusive manner of approaching busy people of affairs:

In July, 1895, I called on Dr. Pearsons, armed with a letter of introduction from Judge Horton of the Appellate Court, secured through the instrumentality of Hon. Chas. S. Deneen, afterwards Governor.

On entering his office, I inquired: "Is this Doctor Pearsons?"

"Yes, sir," was the prompt reply. "I like your face; I think you are an honest man. Draw up that seat."

I being seated, he continued: "What do you want?"

"If you will kindly read that letter it will give you an intimation of what will follow," said I.

After reading, he commenced: "How many students did you have last year?"

"One hundred and sixty-two."

"How many professors?"

"Seven."

"How much endowment?"

"Thirty-five thousand dollars."

Thus Dr. Pearsons proceeded to propound questions about the college, asking where Lebanon was and why St. Louis did

not help, to all of which President Chamberlin seems to have given prompt answers. Dr. Pearsons then told of how he was besieged constantly by colleges and institutions, some of which were already well endowed.

"For which reason," observed President Chamberlin, "it is embarrassing to me to come to you, for I feel as if such calls can prove none other than irksome to you."

"No, no, you go on; I like to hear you talk," was the reply.

"Ah, but my case does not come within the category of your benevolence. We are out of debt, have some endowment. I want to thank you in the name of education for the immeasurable good you have done for other colleges in need of help," said President Chamberlin.

"Sit down!" commanded Dr. Pearsons, as the visitor arose to leave. "How do you pay your professors?"

Here President Chamberlin continued to give detailed information about the college, and his plans for the future; how he had paid all debts, and remodelled the buildings to some extent. He wished to bring the present endowment up to \$100,000. As he rose to leave the second time, Dr. Pearsons proposed: "Well, I'll tell you what I will do. I don't believe in odd numbers. You want a clean \$100,000. I will give you \$20,000 and you raise \$80,000," whereupon he wrote out a simple agreement to pay M. H. Chamberlin, for endowment, the sum named when the terms were fulfilled, and he gave him a year's time.

Handing over the paper, he said, "Come in and see me when you are in town. See here, I'll make a prediction. If you die they'll dissipate all your labors."

"No, Doctor," he replied, "they will fill my place with a better man."

With this sum, President Chamberlin began his campaign. The first part of the year he took only large contributions, toward the last many small sums were subscribed.

The announcement of the raising of the \$100,000 was made to the students in the chapel service on the morning of May

17, 1905. A holiday was declared and the town joined in a noisy celebration of the victory.

The indefatigable president then said, "We want \$500,000, or \$1,000,000, but first, we must be patient, and erect dormitories for the housing of students," and he proceeded to start another campaign for this purpose, not failing, however, at the same time, to take his bearings for the future endowment.

He got Dr. Pearsons again for \$10,000, and through his friend, Mr. Haines of East St. Louis, gained audience with the bankers Clark of Philadelphia, who gave \$25,000; and, winning audience at the Carnegie estate, secured another \$25,000. A railroad friend in Illinois promised him \$10,000, but did not write down his subscription. These sums aggregated \$70,000, \$60,000 of which he had on paper. This left only \$30,000 to be raised at the close of the college year, 1908, when he was surprised by being relieved of his task to satisfy the convictions of some that the old custom of placing a clergyman in charge, should be resumed.

The last two years, and more particularly, the year of his retirement, he had made such successful preparations in the east that he felt confident of securing from large benefactors the money which would enable him to realize his eighth goal, "Millions for McKendree."

In 1896 President Chamberlin was honored with the degree of LL.D.—Doctor of Laws—from the Ulysses S. Grant University of Tennessee, and ten years later, with the same honorary degree from the University of Illinois. While president of McKendree College, he was sent several times to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as lay delegate, and was delegate-elect to the Ecumenical Conference, London, 1901. He served on the Rhodes Scholarship Commission, for Illinois from 1904 to 1908. He was also a trustee for the Illinois State Historical Library, and a director of the State Historical Society.

Dr. O. H. Clark, for a long time president of the Board of Trustees of McKendree, once remarked: "I never saw any-

thing like the smooth system with which Dr. Chamberlin prepares his reports to the Board. We go up each year to the college and find everything mapped out, in detail, statistics, committee suggestions, etc. His reports and recommendations were typewritten in triplicate and cut up in parts to distribute among the various committees. He assigned a good reason for everything he did and proposed. All we had to do was to take up, examine, and recommend."

President Chamberlin vowed there should never be a cent of debt again on the college while he was in command, and for fourteen years he kept his ideal—for he was fourteen years president.

He was called upon to give many addresses, both at the district and annual conferences of his church, and at educational and other meetings. He said things which were new, and sometimes radical and startling.

After raising his first \$100,000, he received invitations to go to the head of other institutions, State, religious and military, with larger and guaranteed salary, but he preferred to "remain with the old ship." One Indiana tramway corporation was so insistent that he finance their extensions that they were going to have him be part of the time at McKendree and the rest of the time at their work, but he answered to the effect that "ye cannot serve God and Mammon."

For nearly two years after his retirement, President Chamberlin and wife lived in their beautiful home, just opposite the college, which had been the gift of townspeople and college friends in 1906.

In April, 1910, Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlin, disposing of their Lebanon home, moved to California to be with their son. As president emeritus, he received a small annuity from the college.

In an editorial of the *Los Angeles Times*, July 31, 1914, appeared a tribute, from which we quote:

"McKendree Chamberlin had not resided here long enough to have a wide local acquaintance, but his fame as an educator, writer and lecturer had reached this city years ago. He was

one of America's grand old men of letters. Profound in learning and gifted in expression, he brought to the world a flaming vision. * * * His message had the background of a truly great character and one as simple and sincere as it was great and good. He never lost his mental enthusiasm, and the end came suddenly, leaving the light undimmed."

His death came after a third attack of "cerebral embolism."